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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Citovsky et al.)
Serial No.: 09/435,274) Examiner: K. Davis
Filed: November 5, 1999) Art Unit: 1636
For: GENETIC ASSAY FOR PROTEIN)
NUCLEAR TRANSPORT)

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in response to the January 24, 2001 Office Action issued by the Examiner in connection with the above identified application. A response to the Office Action was originally due February 24, 2001. However, this Amendment is accompanied by a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time, and therefore a response is now due March 24, 2001. Since March 24, 2001 falls on a Saturday, a response filed on the next business day, namely Monday, March 26, 2001, is considered timely.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 26 and ending on page 2, line 13 with the following new paragraph (pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(iii), a marked-up copy of the amended paragraph on a separate sheet accompanies this amendment):

Nucleo-cytoplasmic shuttling of protein molecules is a basic biological process central to the regulation of gene expression (which underlies all aspects of development, morphogenesis, and signaling pathways in eukaryotic organisms). Furthermore, transport of proteins and